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MEMORANDUM TO: Deputy Director (Support)

SUBJECT : Protection of the Relocation Site against the
Effects of Fallout and Other Forms of Unconventional Warfare.

1. This memorandum contains in paragraphs 4 and 5 a recommendation for your consideration.

2. Since the autumn of 1956 various governmental surveys of the effects of fallout, and of possible counter-measures against same, have been undertaken by various task groups and committees operating at the instigation of the Office of Defense Mobilization. Up to this point none of these has produced any firm guidance or policy doctrine for the benefit of the several departments and agencies of the Executive Branch of the Government. The most recent of these was begun in June, 1958, at which time I requested that a team of experts, cleared to the satisfaction of our Office of Security, be assigned to make a survey of the [REDACTED] and to advise us as to what counter-measures could be taken to protect the site against the hazards of fallout. This group had barely gotten under way on its mission when it was stopped by the Bureau of the Budget's disapproval of the necessary funds to carry out the program.

3. After consultation last Friday with Mr. H. F. Hurley, Director of the Continuity of Government Division of the Office of Civil and Defense Mobilization, I am thoroughly convinced that there is extant no firm guidance in this field, although certain criteria and factual information on the subject have been developed. I have learned of the existence of a few published reports and authoritative pamphlets which have been developed by elements of the Federal Government. In addition, Dr. [REDACTED] of our own Medical Staff has performed some extremely valuable research into the meteorological aspects as well as the pathological aspects of the problem. Moreover, an official of the Corps of Engineers of the United States Army, Mr. Ernest Dhein, is recognized as an authority on the subject of protective counter-measures and I have reason to believe he would, if approached on an informal basis, be willing to render considerable advice and assistance to us on our own problems.

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4. Therefore, I recommend to you that we ourselves undertake to make a comprehensive survey and study aimed to identify and develop means of protection of our relocation site against the effects of fallout, secondary radiation, and, if possible, chemical warfare and biological warfare agents as well. I believe that the responsibility for the actual conduct of the survey should be placed in the Director of Logistics, as part of his previously determined responsibility for planning for the operation of the [REDACTED] [REDACTED] as the emergency headquarters of this Agency after the occurrence of relocation. In addition to such members of his staff as he might designate for this purpose, a panel of consultants consisting of representatives of the Medical Staff, the Office of Communications, the Office of Scientific Intelligence, and the undersigned should be made available to assist in carrying forward this survey.

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5. I have discussed this matter with the Director of Communications and with the Chief of the Planning Staff of the Office of Logistics, and they are in accord with this view. Accordingly, I am attaching, and recommending for your signature, a proposed memorandum to the Director of Logistics formally vesting this responsibility in him.

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[REDACTED]
CIA Emergency Planning Officer

Enclosure:

Memo. to D/OL from DD/S

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